

Dr. Peterson

Meet the Chair Program

7:05 p.m. Friday, Aug. 24, 2012, River Oaks Country Club, Houston, TX

- Thank you, John, for all you and Karen do for Georgia Tech. I especially want to thank you both for hosting all of us this evening.
- It is an exciting time at Georgia Tech. Fall quarter began this week, and the campus is a buzz of activity. Now that's an appropriate pun. We welcomed the largest, best qualified and most diverse fall freshman class in Tech's history.
- In shaping our incoming class we look for students that have excelled academically, but we also look at the many other types of activities in which they have been involved, because we believe that we are not just graduating students, we are preparing leaders and innovators who will develop solutions to some of society's most pressing challenges.
- When speaking to these new students and their parents at new student convocation last Sunday evening, I challenged them to maximize their investment at Tech by getting involved in some of the more than 450 student organizations, or join more than 40 percent of our undergraduates who have an international experience.
- I shared a few statistics with them that you might find interesting.
 - Women make up 35% of this year's freshman class.
 - There are 11 sets of twins.
 - Significantly, 507 of the 3,040 freshmen are alumni legacies.
 - 80% of our freshman class will graduate from Tech and 60% will be engineers.
 - 35% will choose to take a foreign language, even though it is not required.
 - Their average starting salary will be \$65,000 – more if they are female. And, this year marks the 60th anniversary of women at Georgia Tech.
 - 35% of our students work as interns or participate in our co-op program, which turns 100 next month.
- We've been in our new Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons for a year now, and there have been more than 2 million visitors, or 12,000 per day. This summer it

was transformed into the headquarters for Google as part of a movie production on campus. Students had fun with that.

- It is easy to see why the film company would want to film at Georgia Tech. Our campus is impressive, and through a combination of philanthropy and state and industry support, we have a number of new or renovated facilities this year. Construction is just about complete on McCamish Pavilion. We will have our new Ken Byers Tennis Complex in January. The new Carbon Neutral Energy Solutions, or CNES building, is designed to set a new standard for sustainable design for buildings of its type. Construction has begun for the new Engineered Biosystems Building, made possible because of a commitment from the state as well as institutional and private funds, will provide a competitive edge and economic boost to the state by fueling Georgia's growing biomedical research industry.
- The power of partnership is a theme that permeates all of Georgia Tech. A sterling example is Campaign Georgia Tech. It will help us to realize our goals in the Strategic plan, and it will help us achieve a level of excellence that otherwise would not be possible through state funding alone. It allows us to add endowed chairs and professorships to continue to attract and retain the very best faculty, with a goal of providing endowed chairs and professorships to one in every four tenure-track faculty. It will allow us to provide scholarships for undergraduates and fellowships for graduate students; and it will allow us to construct and renovate existing facilities.
- Next month we will celebrate the transformative gift—\$50 million—that Ernie Scheller made to our business school. Scheller, a 1952 Industrial Management graduate, credits Georgia Tech as teaching him to be disciplined and focused in everything he did. The Ernest Scheller Jr. College of Business is already ranked as the eighth ranked public business school in the nation. Ernie's generosity and vision will help position the Scheller College of Business for global prominence, appropriately during its centennial year.

- We are achieving powerful results through our partnerships with business, industry, government and non-profit organizations. In June Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and Georgia Tech announced a \$20 million joint investment, strengthening our commitment to developing technological solutions for improving children's health. Research will include everything from nanomedicine and regenerative medicine to innovative approaches for healthcare delivery.
- Georgia Tech is partnering with the City of Atlanta, the State of Georgia, and business and industry to create a culture of innovation. We are actively and aggressively working to commercialize the technologies developed at Tech, moving the discoveries made in our laboratories to the marketplace and building the companies that will create jobs, drive our economy, and stimulate economic growth. We're also committed to helping individuals in the community transform their intellectual property to drive innovation.
- I've touched on just a few highlights of the exciting things happening at Tech. We hope you'll have an opportunity to return to campus this year and experience it yourself.
- Now Dean Gary May will give us an overview of current activities underway at the College of Engineering.